

ITALIAN WHITE

You recall
when I wanted to be like the Italians
and painted the bathroom
Italian white.

Inexperienced
in these matters, I used enamel instead
of latex, and stunk us
out of the house.

Older & wiser
I always use waterbase paints now like
when I painted the porch
Spanish red.

TELEPHONES

I am crazy
and afraid of telephones
terribly awkward in restaurants
painfully shy around strangers.
I fall down stairs to impress women
forget the names of everyone I meet
and have a difficult time
remembering the details of my own
life.

Available subjects for small talk
are limited to minor aches and pains
redundant annoyances
I take bad weather personally
and wince when I smile.

I will never call you up
to make a luncheon date
nor will I invite you over
for snooker, chips and dip
I can't pronounce the names of french wines
and if I ever drown I'm
certain it will be in a hot tub.

What's your excuse?
You're attractive, well dressed
you have marketable skills and
are gainfully employed in a growing industry.
You are blessed in the social graces
and know how to operate food service machines.

So what's your problem? Are you not
revered in your profession?
Admired by your colleagues?
Isn't it true you balance
an active family life
half a dozen rewarding hobbies
armies of friends, while fully meeting
the demands of a challenging career
and still find time
for personal development, athletic
endeavors, quiet introspection?
I'm half crazy, and totally incompetent.
What's your excuse?

BUSCH GARDENS

You smell the beer
as you approach
on the freeway. It's free
the admission and the beer
but you might pay
a buck to park.

They have exotic birds from
all over the globe
flaming red
orange and pink flamingos
coke bottle blue toucans
and an amphitheatre
where a girl
in a hostess uniform
gets a spectrum of parrots
to mouth off at her.

There are beer pavillions
at every turn,
that's the real attraction,
handing out big dixie cups
of free foamy brew
and everyone
walks around
smashed in the hot sun
enjoying the birds.